

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19447

Alternative Funding Task Force: This legislation delays the effective date of Sections 2, 3, and 4 of Chapter 333, Laws of 2009 from July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011. Sections 1, 5, and 6 became law on May 12, 2009 and are not impacted by this legislation. Section 1 included legislative intent to establish an interim task force to study alternative funding sources, section 5 established the Idaho Law Enforcement Fund, and section 6 provided a severability clause.

Background: At the end of the 2009 session, as part of a plan to find additional funding for the Idaho Transportation Department, the Legislature passed House Concurrent Resolution 32 (HCR 32). HCR 32 established a legislative task force made up of four members from the Senate and four members from the House of Representatives to undertake and complete a study. The study was to identify ongoing alternative dedicated funding sources for the Idaho State Police and for the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation to offset those funds shifted to transportation by H376 of 2009. Members of the task force were Co-Chairman Senator Cameron. Co-Chairman Representative Bell, Senator Lodge, Senator Hammond, Senator Bilyeu, Representative Wills, Representative Labrador, and Representative Ringo.

After studying the issue and hearing public testimony at three meetings during the summer of 2009, the task force recommended to the legislature and the Legislative Council that the implementation date of H376 of 2009 be delayed until July 1, 2011. Furthermore, the task force recommended that gas tax revenues for Parks and Recreation be permanently reinstated and that an ongoing dedicated funding source be found to replace those funds shifted away from the Idaho State Police. The task force also forwarded their conclusions to the Governor's Task Force on Modernizing Transportation Funding authorized by Executive Order 2009-11.

FISCAL NOTE

The fiscal year 2011 impact to the Highway Distribution Account from the delay in the effective date of H376 of 2009 for Parks and Recreation is about \$4.25 million. The fiscal impact to the State Highway Fund from the delay of H376 of 2009 for the State Police is about \$16 million. On the other hand, the savings to the five recreation impacted funds (Waterways Improvement, Off-Highway Vehicle, Capital Improvement, Road and Bridge, and Search and Rescue) is \$4.25 million and the savings to the Law Enforcement Fund is \$16 million. Therefore, the net impact is to delay, for one year, the shift of about \$20.25 million to highway construction and maintenance uses from recreational uses and highway patrol uses.

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